

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 37-50 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-17, and 28 were cancelled by a previous amendment. The present Amendment adds new Claims 37-50 without introducing any new matter; and cancels Claims 18-27 and 29-36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action objected to Claim 34 for not further limiting the subject matter of the previous claim. Claims 18-27 and 29-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0109668, hereinafter "Rosenberg").

In response, Claims 18-27 and 29-37 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 37-50 are presented. New independent Claim 38 is directed to a method, and these features find non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example in the specification from page 5, line 33, to page 6, line 33. No new matter has been added.

In response to the rejection of Claims 18-27 and 29-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), in light of the presentation of new claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly summarizing, Applicants' independent Claim 37 is directed to a method for operating a haptic interface unit including a haptic device used by a user for navigating through a displayed list of items and configured to exert an interaction feedback force. The method including the steps of performing an inverted damping operation mode in which a strength of the interaction feedback force is inverse proportional to a velocity described by velocity data information generated or received by the haptic device, performing a holding force mode in which a strength of the interaction feedback force tends to hold at least one of a

user's finger or a hand in place, performing a force well mode in which the interaction feedback force is modulated by values of underlying data included in the displayed list of items, leaving the performing of the inverted damping operation mode when a velocity falls below a damping threshold velocity, and entering the performing of the inverted damping operation mode when the velocity increases above the damping threshold velocity.

Turning now to the rejection reference, Rosenberg is directed to a method for navigating a cursor within a graphical environment in relation to other graphical objects. (Rosenberg, Abstract, ¶ [0011], ll. 1-5.). His method can control a haptic feedback to enhance navigation of a cursor 206 in a graphic display environment. (Rosenberg, Abstract, Fig. 2.) Rosenberg also discussed that the haptic feedback can depend on a distance between the cursor 206 and the target 201. (Rosenberg, p. 6, ¶ [0052], ll. 10-14, Figs. 1 and 2.)

Rosenberg's interface device includes a user manipulable object capable of controlling the motion of the cursor and an actuator for outputting a haptic effect to the user of the interface device. (Rosenberg, ¶ [0012], ll. 4-8.) Rosenberg's "haptic effect" is output for each of the graphical objects, over which the cursor moves. (Rosenberg, ¶ [0012], ll. 12-14.) Rosenberg explains that one of the "haptic effects" that is produced is an attractive/repulsive force, so that a user can be biased to move the user object 34 towards the target. (Rosenberg, p. 6, ¶ [0052], ll. 1-6, Figs. 1 and 2.) In other words, in Rosenberg's method, the location of graphical objects next to the cursor determine the different modes, and whether a haptic effect occurs for the actuator.

However, Rosenberg fails to teach all the features of Applicants' independent Claim 37. In particular, Rosenberg fails to teach a step of leaving the performing of the inverted damping operation mode when a velocity falls below a damping threshold velocity; and entering the performing of the inverted damping operation mode when the velocity increases above the damping threshold velocity, as required by Applicants' independent Claim 37. In

other words, according to the method of Applicants' Claim 37, the "mode" of the haptic interface unit is determined by the velocity information generated or received by the haptic device. In contrast, Rosenberg fails to teach such a feature, because he explicitly describes that the cursor velocity modulates the magnitude of the haptic effect. (Rosenberg, ¶ [0012]). The claimed method differs from such a method in that cursor velocity determines the type of haptic effect exerted/generated by the input device. With Rosenberg's method the type of haptic effect, for example whether it is repulsive or attractive, for each graphical object, is independent from a cursor velocity.

Moreover, in Rosenberg's Figures 5a-5c and 6a-6b, the ordinates are labeled with "force gain (effect strength)." In addition, in paragraph [0076] of Rosenberg, it is described that the strength of the haptic effect is proportional to the cursor velocity. However, as further recited in Applicants' independent Claim 37, an inverted damping operation mode is performed, in which a strength of the interaction feedback force is inverse proportional to a velocity. In other words, according to Rosenberg's method, the "haptic effect" associated with a graphic object remains the same, only the strength in which the user senses the "haptic effect" is weaker or stronger. But this is different from the features of Applicants' Claim 38, where the "haptic effect" sensed by the user when passing a graphic object depends on the velocity with which the graphic object is passed.

Therefore, the cited passages of the applied reference Rosenberg fail to teach every feature recited in Applicants' Claim 37, so that Claims 37-50 are believed to be patentably distinct over Rosenberg. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of the rejection based on this reference.

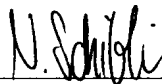
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 37-50 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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